HERO TALES OF IRELAND

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The Cotter's Son and the Half Silm Cham-

Once upon a time there was a poor cotter in Erin, and he had three sons. Whether it was well or ill that he reared them, he reared them and then died. When their father was dead and buried, the three sons lived with their mother for a day and a year, and at the end of that time the eldest brother said:

I will go to seek my fortune in the world." He took his mother's blessing with him and

went away on the following morning.

The two sons and the mother lived on tosether for another day and a year, when the second son said:

"I will go out to seek my fortune."

He went away like the first brother. The mother and the youngest son lived on together for a day and a year, and then the mother died. When she was buried the younget of the three brothers, whose name was Arthur, went out in the world to seek his fortune. He travelled, and was walking always for a day and a year without finding a master. till on the afternoon of the last day of the year

he took service with a hill.
On the last day of Arthur's service with the hill the Half Slim Champion came in the afterpoon and asked would be play agame of cards. "If you win," said the champion, "you will have a castle with lands and cattle of all kinds: if you lose, you will do me a service."

With that they sat down to play, and Arthur won. Now, Arthur had lands and a castle, catthe of all kinds, and wealth in abundance.

The Half Slim Champion went his way, and Arthur lived for a day and a year on his lands. On the last day of the year the champion came in the afternoon, and with him was the most beautiful lady that man could set eyes on.

"Will you play a second game?" asked the champion. "If you lose you will do me a service: if you win I give you this lady as wife." I will play with you," said Arthur.

They played and Arthur won.

Arthur lived with his wife in the castle for a day and a year, and on the last afternoon the champion came the way leading a hound. They played the third time and Arthur won the hound. The champion went his way, and

again Arthur lived for a day and a year with his wife in the castle in case, in plenty, and in great delight. On the afternoon of the last day the cham-

great delight.

On the afternoon of the last day the champion came the fourth time. Arthur's wife saw him at a distance and said to her husband:

"My advice is to play no more with that champion. Remain as you are and keep out of harm's way."

But Arthur would not listen to the wife nor be said by her. He went out to play with the champion and lost.

"I put you under bonda," said the champion, "not to sleep two nights in the same bed nor eat two meals off the same table, but to be walking through the world and searching always till you find the birth that has never been born and that never will be."

The champion turned, walked away, and disappeared. Arthur went home in grief, and when he sat down the chair that was under him broke into pieces.

"I told you." said the wife, "not to play with him. What has he put on you?"

"To be walking and searching, ever and always, through the world till I find the birth that has never been born and never will be."

"Take the hound with you," said the wife, and go first to the castle of the son of the Ring of Lochlin. Take service with him; you may learn something there."

Away went Arthur next morning and the hound with him. They were long on the road, lodging one time at a house and another time where the night found them, till at last a great castle was in sight. When the hound saw the castle he grew so wild with delight that he broke his chain and rushed away. But if he did Arthur followed, and when the hound without that you'd have been done for. Who are you, and where are you going?"

"I am a man in eearch of a master."

"I am seeking a man," said the King's son.

"Will you take service with me?"

"I will," answered Arthur.

Be hired for a day and a year and wages according to service.

Arthur went to work on the following morning, and his first task was to bring faggots from the forcest. When he went to the jorrat

He hired for a day and a year and wages according to service.

Arthur went to work on the following morning, and his first task was to bring faggots from the forest. When he went to the forest he found half of it green and the other half dry. Nothing was growing in the dry part: all was withered and dead. Arthur collected dry faggots and brought them to the castle. In the evening he spoke to the King's son, and this is what he asked of him:

"Why is half of your forest green and the other half withered and dry?"

"A day and seven years ago," said the King's son, "a terrible serpent came the way and took half of my forest for herself. In that part she is living till this time-that is the green part. She knocked the life out of my half—that is the dry part."

"Why do you not take wood from the green part."

book half of my recess for beened. In this and seed, the life out of my half—

my by 20 yea, not take wood from the green and before you need to the life. The seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before he largest and the seed time, it is stoped before the largest and the seed time, it is stoped before the seed time, it is stoped by the seed the seed to the seed the seed to in the castle who heard the tidings too late or was going the serients to ze, for whose set of was going the serpent was at the door.

"Where are the people of the castle?" asked the serient of the trait of the serient.

"It min dread to go out. I will not go unless you take the head off the serient. The fact the head off the serient. The fact, and the serient of the castle will not go unless you take the head off the serient. The fact, and the limit of the head off the serient. The fact, and the limit of the head off the serient. The fact, and the limit of the head of the serient of the trait of

man. Seven hundred against me and then seven

give you now for the service? What wages do you expect?"

"No more than is just. I hope that you will find out for me who is the birth that has nover been born and that never will be."

"That is no great thing for me to discover," said the King's son.

There was a hollow place in the wall of the castle near the fireplace, and in that hollow the King's son kept his own father, and gave him food. He opened a secret door and brought out the old King.

"Now tell me, father." said he, "who is it that has never been born and never will be?"

"That's a thing of which no tidings have been given or ever will be," replied the King.

When the father wasn't giving him the answer he wanted the son put the old King standing on a red-hot iron griddle.

"Its fried and roasted you'll be till you answer my question and tell who is the birth that has never been born and that never will be," said the son.

The old King stood on the griddle till the

be." said the son.

The old King stood on the griddle till the marrow was melting in the bones of his feet.

They took him off then, and the son asked

The old King stood on the griddle till the marrow was melting in the bones of his feet. They took him off then, and the son asked him asceond time.

"That's a question not to be answered by me," said the King.

He was put standing again on the red-hot griddle and kept on it till the marrow was melting in the bones to his knees.

"Release me out of this now," cried the King." They took him from the griddle. He sat down then and told this story to his son, in presence of Arthur:

"I was walking out beyond there in the garden one day when I came on a beautiful rod, which I cut and took with me. I discovered soon after that that was a rod of enchantment, and never let it go from me. When I went walking or riding in the day I took the rod with me. In the night I slept with it under my pillow. Misfortune came on me at last, for I left the rod in my chamber one time that I started away to go fowling. After I had gone a good piece of road I remembered the rod, and hurrled home then to get in.

"When I came to the castle I found a dark, tall man inside in my chamber with the Queen. They saw me, and I turned from the door to let them silp out and think that I had not seen them. I went to the door not long after and opened it. Your mother was standing inside not two feet from the threshold. She struck me right there with the rod and made a wild deer of me.

"When she had me a deer she sent a great."

not two feet from the threshold. She struck me right there with the rod and made a wild deer of me.

"When she had me a deer she sent a great pack of hounds after me, for every hand's breadth of my body there was a savage dog to tear me and hunt me to death. The hounds chased me, and followed till I ran to the faraway mountains. There I escaped. So great was my swiftness and strength that I took my life with me.

"After that I came back to injure the Queen, and I did every harm in my power to her grain and her crops and her gardens.

"One day she sprang up from behind a stone wail, when I thought no one near, struck me with the rod and made a wolf of me. She called a hunt then. Hounds and men chased me itorcely till evening. At nightfall I escaped to an island in a lake where no man was living. Next day I went around each perch of that island. I searched every place and found only a she wolf.

"But the wolf was a women enchanted years.

took half of my forest for herself. In that part she is living till this time—that is the green part. She knocked the life out of my half—that is the dry part."

"Why do you not take wood from the green part?" asked Arthur.

"Neither you nor all who ever same bafor.

"Neither you nor all who ever same bafor.

THE END OF THE THISTY-FOURTH TALK!

hundred to every hundred of these till I find
the new tool of the world, it would be better
for you to hide under a leaf than to stand belove the plant.

The glant caper like two llone of the desert
or two buils of great growth, and fought with
race. They made the softest blaces hardest
and the hardest places softest; they brought
great turts of green rushes through their own
ence strings. The woulds that they made on
oach other weres o great that little birds fisw
through them and men of small growth could

It was dark and the end of the day when
archiveried out;

"It is a bad thing for me, filthy glant, to
With that he gave him one blow on the free
meeks and seen the five heads firing through
the air. After a while the heads were coming
down croning isinging the coronach, arthut
with them; the body and heads fell dead on the
ground. The wife of the son of the King of
Lochlin ran out now, smothered arthur with
with a cloak of fine silk; she put her hand under his arm, and they went to the castle of the
glant. The two had good entertainment,
plenty to eat, and no bird sty. They made
sation, one for tales, and one for sott sleen.

When they rose in the morning the woman
said. "It is a noor thing for us to go and
leave here behind all the gold the glant hard."

They were out tound three shine belonging
to the giant, and filed them with gold.

When they rose in the morning the woman
said. "It is a noor thing for us to go and
leave here behind all the gold the giant had."

The servant boy is coming and bringing
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The without rising from the hearth aid the time
that Arthur was away. When the was in sight of
locklin a messencer was walking toward the

all events," she cried, with a great deal of painfulness in the expression. "I do not think my heart is true."
"Yet there are very few that would have

made that leap, and all to obey a father's orders," I observed.
"I cannot have you to be thinking of meso," she cried again. "When you had done that same, how would I stop behind? And at all

events that was not all the reasons." Whereupon, with a burning face, she told me the plain truth upon her poverty.
"God guide us!" cried I. "what kind of daftlike proceeding is this, to let yourself be launched on the continent of Europe with an

empty purse-I count it hardly decent-scant decent!" I cried. "You forget, James More, my father, is a poor gentleman," said she. "He is a hunted

"But I think not all your friends are hunted exiles." I exclaimed. "And was this fair to them that care for you? Was it fair to me? Was it fair to Miss Grant that counselled you to go, and would be driven fair horse-mad if she could hear of it? Was it even fair to these Gregory folk that you were living with, and used you lovingly? It's a blessing you have fallen in my hands! Suppose your father hin-dered by an accident, what would become of you here, and you your lee-alone in a strange land place? The thought of the thing frightens me." I said.
"I will have lied to all of them." she replied.

"I will have told them all that I had plenty. I told her, too. I could not be lowering James More to them."

I found out later on that she must have lowered him in the very dust, for the lie was originally the father's, not the daughter's, and she thus obliged to persevere in it for the man's reputation. But at the time I was igdestitution and the perils in which she must have fallen had ruffled me almost beyond reason.

"Well, well, well," said I, "you will have to learn more sense."

I left her mails for the moment in an inn upon the shore, where I got a direction for Sprott's house in my new French, and we walked there-it was some little way-beholding the place with wonder as we went. Indeed, there was much for Scots folk to admire, canals and trees being intermingled with the houses; the houses, each within itself, of a brave red brick, the color of a rose, with steps and benches of blue marble at the cheek of every door, and the whole town so clean you might have dined upon the causeway. Sprott was within, upon



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GOING FOR THE NORTH POLE

THE EXPEDITION THAT JACKSON WILL

His Plan for Establishing Stations on the Way to the Pole-This Route Pavored by Experis as the Most Promising - The Thrilling Experience of Leigh Smith.

A period of unusual activity in North Polar research will begin this season. Three enterprises will endeavor to obtain a footing in high northern latitudes for the purpose, if possible, of extending geographic research to the Pole, or at least nearer the northern apex of the world than explorers have hitherto attained. The project of greatest interest to Americans is that of Lieut. Peary, who, having already determined the northern termination of Greenland, hopes in his coming two years' work to map the archipelago north of the mainland and to push his researches over the Arctic Ocean toward or to the Pole. Dn Nansen will start in June with the Intention of foreing his little steamer into the ice north of the New Siberian Islands in the belief, which is not enthusiastically endorsed by Arctic authorities, that the current will carry him north into the neighborhood of the Pole and into the south-

flowing East Greenland current. An enterprise that will arouse the greatest interest among Arotic experts is that of the Englishman, F. G. Jackson, who proposes to lead a North Polar expedition by way of France Josef Land. Nearly all Arctic authorities be-lieve that Franz Josef Land offers the most promising route for attaining the highest latie. tude, and possibly the Pole. Nobody knows how far it extends toward the Pole, but the most northern part of the archipelago yes seen is nearer the North Pole than any other

land thus far discovered.

Jackson's plan is to sail next summer with a party of ten men for the southern coast of Franz Josef Land. The three voyages thus far made to the archipelago indicate that it is easily accessible in any ordinary year. Jackson hopes to reach his base of operations in time to make a rapid reconnoissance north through Austria Sound, the wide waterway extending directly north and south and die viding the archipelago. The Payer-Weyprechs expedition, by which Franz Josef Land was discovered in 1873, ascended Austria Sound for about 220 miles, and beyond these farthest north they saw two great land masses. Peters

discovered in 1873, ascended Austria Sound for about 220 miles, and beyond these farthess north they saw two great land masses. Peters mann Land and King Oscar Land, stretching away toward the Pole. Jackson will try on his sledges next summer to surpass the farthess north of the Austrian expedition and to go into winter quarters at or near the most norther part of Franz. Josef Land now known.

After the return of day a year from now Jackson will endeavor to push forward with a considerable quantity of stores and establish a second depot probably in about 85° N. Lat. Having established a base in this high latitude, he hopes to be able, during the same season, to make a third march northward and establish a third depot, if land is found further north, within about two hundred miles of the Pole. Here he would expect to pass the second winter and to devote the following summer to an attempt to reach the Pole.

This scheme of work invoives a small party, a light equipment of sledges and dogs, and a chain of stations to be replenished with supplies from the vessel. Jackson seems to have taken hardly sufficient necount of the enormous difficulties of sledging in Franz Josef Land. The Austrians encountered very great obstacles in making their furthest north.

An uncertain element in Jackson's plans is the land base, which he hopes to utilize to get within striking distance of the Pole. His plan rest on the hypotheses of Franz Josef Land extending to or nearly to the North Pole, but it cannot be said that there is any very satisfactory evidence that this assumption is true. Admiral Albert Markham, however, thinks it is not improbable that "the dimensions of this little known land will be found, when explored, to equal in size the large continent of Greenland." Capt. Sir Allan Young says that "Franz Josef Land as a base of operations within the polar area. Gen. Greely, the leading American authority on Arctic matters, has long held the view that it is the only route which offers a possibility of success to a North Pole a

Secretary of the control of the cont